To: Principal Betsy Tomblin

From: Cindy Heggood

Re: New PTA Program, [Three for Me](http://www.pta.org/three_for_me.asp)

Gentian Elementary School’s mission statement is to provide education experiences that enable each student to become a lifelong learner, enter the workforce with necessary skills, and achieve academic and personal potential. Research supports that parental involvement plays an important role in the academic achievement and success of children. The conclusion of A New Wave of Evidence, a report from Southwest Educational Development Laboratory in 2002 concludes that despite “family income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, enroll in higher-level schools, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improvements, and adapt well to school.” In order to promote and increase parental involvement, I propose implementing a National PTA program called Three for Me.

“Three for Me is a PTA program designed to effectively involve parents and families in support of children and their education” (National PTA website). Parents and family members are encouraged to pledge to volunteer three hours during the entire year to help their child’s school. Many parents desire to become involved but do not know what to do, so Three for Me fosters parent involvement by providing a list of activities.

Three for Me offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities. For parents who are unable to volunteer at the school due to job commitments, time constraints, or other circumstances, Three for Me provides a variety of volunteer opportunities that can be completed at home. Some of the volunteer opportunities include but are not limited to creating flashcards, maintaining the PTA website, reading in the classrooms, providing additional individual assistance to struggling students, and coordinating events, such as field day or math night.

I have a specific plan for coordinating the Three for Me program. I would like to organize a committee to help establish this program and introduce this program at the August 2012 PTA meeting. Three for Me is realistic and extremely feasible because the program encourages parents to only volunteer three hours over an entire school year, and schools that have implemented Three for Me have had positive increases in parental involvement. A free [starter kit](http://thoreauptsa.org/downloads/3forMeStarterKit1.pdf) is available online. The cost of the program mainly consists of time from the parents. If the program is successful, it will become a standard component of Gentian’s PTA orgainzation. At your convenience, please contact me so that we might discuss the proposed new program and its implementation.